

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated June 3, 2004, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on September 3, 2004. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 71-87 and 98-113 remain pending in the application and are shown above. Claims 106-113 stand rejected. Claims 71-87 and 98-105 are indicated to be allowable by the Examiner. Reconsideration of the rejected claims is requested for reasons presented below.

Applicants have amended claims 71, 73, 74, 76, and 79-83 to replace "glass panel" with "substrate." Applicants submit that the changes made herein do not introduce new matter.

Claims 106-113 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Examiner states that it is unclear whether the term "atmosphere" refers to the earth's atmosphere or the specific gaseous environment such as an inert gas atmosphere or nitrogen gas atmosphere inside a chamber. Applicants respectfully submit that the term "atmosphere" in the claims is not indefinite. Applicants submit that the term "atmosphere" in the claims refers to the earth's atmosphere in view of the language of the claims and the specification. Applicants respectfully submit that there is no basis for the Examiner's assertion that the term "atmosphere" in claims 106-113 could refer to not exposing the substrate to an atmosphere inside a chamber. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 106-113.

Claims 106-113 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Lackritz, et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,724,968). The Examiner states that *Lackritz, et al.* discloses a method comprising depositing one or more of the lower cladding, core layer, and upper cladding layer and heat treating via radiation one or more of the lower cladding, core layer, and upper cladding without exposing the substrate to atmosphere following the deposition thereof (column 26, line 34 to column 27, line 8, Figure 8). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Lackritz, et al. describes a method of treating a substrate in which a substrate roll is unwound and moved using a system of rollers such that it can be coated and treated

as required to create a web of a multilayer structure (column 26, lines 15-23). The unwound substrate is moved under a coater or conveyance means, such as rollers, which applies a layer of lower cladding to the substrate (column 26, lines 34-49). *Lackritz, et al.* describes UV curing the lower cladding (column 26, lines 50-58). However, *Lackritz, et al.* does not teach or suggest that the lower cladding is UV cured without exposing the substrate to atmosphere after the lower cladding is deposited. *Lackritz, et al.* describes using coating stations to deposit the layers provided therein, but does not describe or suggest a means, such as an enclosed system, by which the lower cladding could be deposited and heat treated without exposing the substrate to atmosphere between the deposition of the lower cladding and the heat treatment of the lower cladding. *Lackritz, et al.* also describes depositing a core layer on the treated lower cladding, depositing an upper cladding on the core layer, and heating the core layer and upper cladding (column 26, line 59-column 27, line 8, Figure 8). However, *Lackritz, et al.* does not teach or suggest that the core layer or upper cladding is deposited and then heat treated without exposing the substrate to atmosphere following the deposition thereof. Thus, *Lackritz, et al.* does not teach, show, or suggest a method of forming an optical device on a substrate, comprising depositing one or more of a lower cladding, a core, and an upper cladding and, without exposing the substrate to atmosphere, heat treating one or more of the lower cladding, the core and the upper cladding following deposition thereof, as recited in claim 106. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 106 and of claims 107-113, which depend thereon.

Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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